

JENNIE R. ROMER, ESQ.

EDUCATION

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

San Francisco, CA

J.D.

Writer & Managing Editor, Golden Gate University Environmental Law Journal
Participant, Pace University National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition
CALI Award, Writing and Research I & Witkin Award, Writing and Research II

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA BARBARA

Santa Barbara, CA

B.A., Environmental Studies & Black Studies, B.S., Zoology

Dean's Honors, Winter & Spring 1999
Study Abroad, UC Education Abroad Program Barbados & Ghana
Lab Assistant, Scott D. Cooper Lab for Stream Ecology
Member, Equestrian Polo Club
Volunteer, Barbados Sea Turtle Network

LITIGATION AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

San Clemente, CA

Legal Associate, Plastic Pollution Initiative

July 2019 – present

Responsible for the leadership of the Surfrider Foundation's policy efforts and litigation to reduce plastic pollution at local, state and national levels.

FREELANCE SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTING

New York, NY

Consultant

Jan 2011 – July 2019

Sustainability consultant for businesses, government, and non-profit groups. Primarily focused on assisting nonprofits and government officials with legislative drafting of local environmental laws, including plastic carryout bag ordinances, as well as assisting businesses with developing strategies to comply with local environmental regulations.

MILBANK, TWEED, HADLEY & McCLOY LLP

New York, NY

Staff Attorney

Nov 2016 – present

Responsible for review and summary of documents and deposition preparation for various cases.

CHADBOURNE & PARKE LLP

New York, NY

Contract Attorney

Sept 2015 – Sept 2016

Responsible for review and summary of various financial documents regarding an investigation. Agency: Update Legal

NEIGHBORS ALLIED FOR GOOD GROWTH [NAG]

Brooklyn, NY

Environmental Community Organizer

June 2014 – Aug 2016

Partnered with Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce to coordinate the Curb Your Litter campaign, which included developing protocols for a litter characterization study. Applied for and administered a state Technical Assistance Grant regarding clean-up of a former plastics factory Superfund site. Coordinated a GIS mapping project regarding toxic "hot spots" in the north Brooklyn neighborhoods of Greenpoint and Williamsburg.

LEXINGTON LAW GROUP

San Francisco, CA

Attorney

May 2011 - June 2012 (full-time) & Jan 2014 – July 2015 (remote)

Case management and settlement compliance at a boutique environmental law firm primarily representing Center for Environmental Health. Day-to-day activities included preparing motions, declarations and statutory notices, and monitoring compliance with past settlement agreements. After moving to NYC, transitioned to a part-time remote position summarizing documents and 2nd chairing depositions for class action case involving organic product claims.

Senior Litigation Paralegal

Mar 2008 – Aug 2010

Developed expertise in overseeing all legal filings in state and federal courts, including appellate courts. Created and maintained evidence databases and case files for cases involving up to 200+ defendants.

QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN, LLP

New York, NY

Responsible for review of documents and creation of a privilege log for RMBS litigation. Agency: Providus

Contract Attorney

Aug 2012 – Feb 2014

GLOBAL GREEN USA

New York, NY

Primarily responsible for developing pilot projects for Global Green USA's Coalition for Resource Recovery (CoRR) and coordinating a class at Parsons School of Design creating prototypes for new non-Styrofoam NYC school lunch trays.

Program Associate

July 2013 – Oct 2013

GREEN CITIES CALIFORNIA

Mill Valley, CA (working remotely)

Responsible for tracking local plastic bag legislation in California, reviewing ordinance language, communicating with stakeholders, and updating GCC's model ordinance. Outreach and education to city planners regarding best practices.

Environmental Policy Consultant

October 2011 – June 2012

CALIFORNIA ANTI-SLAPP PROJECT

Berkeley, CA

Researched and drafted motions at a small First Amendment law firm representing defendants in Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. Served as primary contact for client communications.

Attorney

Jun 2010 - Aug 2010

LITIGATION AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE (UNPAID POSITIONS)

OFFICES OF NYC COUNCIL MEMBER BRAD LANDER AND MARGARET CHIN

New York, NY

Senior consultant and attorney for two New York City Council Members regarding NYC's carryout bag bill. Responsible for drafting speaking points and outreach materials for a variety of audiences (fact sheets, FAQs, press releases). Reviewed and commented on bill language and advised top elected officials on several aspects of environmental policy.

Pro Bono Counsel

2013 – present

MANHATTAN SOLID WASTE ADVISORY BOARD (SWAB)

New York, NY

Member of a citizen advisory board appointed jointly by the Manhattan Borough President and New York City Council Members tasked with review and promotion of new solid waste strategies for the City.

Member

2013 – present

PLASTICBAGLAWS.ORG

San Francisco, CA

Solely responsible for the creation and maintenance of a website designed to aid cities and states in adopting laws to reduce plastic bag consumption. Compiled information including legislation, litigation, and studies. Served as a senior consultant to several municipalities on various aspects of legislation and reviewing proposed ordinance language.

Founder & Director

2010 - present

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

San Francisco, CA

Primarily responsible for researching implementation of plastic bag reduction ordinances. Duties included outreach materials for the general public and policy memorandum regarding the legal implications of Prop 26 and CEQA.

Volunteer

2010 – 2012

OFFICE OF SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR ROSS MIRKARIMI

San Francisco, CA

Served as primary point person for inquiries regarding San Francisco's plastic bag ban. Attended Board of Supervisors meetings, discussed proposed ordinances with stakeholders, and fielded constituent phone calls.

Volunteer

2007 – 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

Romer, Jennie R. "Plastic Bag Laws and the Threat of Preemption." Manuscript in preparation.

Romer, Jennie R. and Leslie Tamminen. "New York City's Proposed Charge on All Carryout Bags as a Model for U.S. Cities." *Tulane University Environmental Law Journal* 27 (2014): 237.

Romer, Jennie R. and Shana Foley. "A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing." *Golden Gate University Environmental Law Journal* 5 (2012): 377.

Romer, Jennie Reilly. "The Evolution of SF's Plastic-Bag Ban." *Golden Gate University Environmental Law* 1 (2007): 439.

Monographs

Romer, Jennie R. *Can I Recycle This?* Manuscript in preparation.

Other Printed Publications

Romer, Jennie and Surfrider Foundation. "Surfrider Foundation's Plastic Activist Bag Toolkit." January 2019

Romer, Jennie R. "Editorial—Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags: An Icon of Waste." *Sustainability: The Journal of Record* 5 (2012): 6.

GUEST LECTURES

Panelist, "Changing the Tide on Plastic Pollution," Pratt Institute, Oct 5, 2018

Panelist, "The History & Future of Plastic Bag Laws" at Northeast Recycling Council Conference," Amherst, MA, Nov 14, 2017

Plenary Panelist, "Plastic Bags: The Truth is Out There" at New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling," Otesaga, NY, Nov 7, 2017

Panelist, "An Overview of Plastic Bag Laws" at Federation of New York Recycling Associations," Lake George, NY, May 22, 2017

Keynote Speaker, "An Overview of Plastic Bag Laws," Bayou Preservation Association Annual Summit, Houston, TX, Oct 11, 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 University of California at Los Angeles, School of Law Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic
Partnered as a consultant for Surfrider Foundation on a Briefing Booklet for "Actions to Address Marine Plastic Pollution: Reducing or Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution Through Source Controls and Life-Cycle Management" distributed at a United States House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee Briefing in Washington, D.C. Attended one class at University of California at Los Angeles as a guest lecturer, reviewed and commented on three versions of the draft Briefing Booklet, then accompanied law clinic professor and students to briefing in Washington, D.C.

2015 New York University, Department of Environmental Studies, Senior Capstone Project
Acted as the client for Senior Capstone Project taught by Adjunct Professor Kizzy Charles-Guzman. Attended one class at New York University as a guest lecturer then gave feedback on project throughout the semester and attended final Capstone presentation.

2013 The New School, Parsons School of Design
Co-coordinated a class at Parsons School of Design taught by Daniel Michalik, Assistant Professor of Product and Industrial Design on behalf of Global Green USA's Coalition for Resource Recovery (CoRR). The class focused on creating prototypes for new non-Styrofoam NYC school lunch trays. Attended one class as a guest lecturer and one class as a field trip coordinator, arranged for other guest lecturers in the industry and gave feedback on project.

- 2008 Golden Gate University School of Law
Managing Editor at Golden Gate University School of Law’s Environmental Law Journal, overseeing the writing and editing process for second-year law student writers.
- 2007 Golden Gate University School of Law
Teacher’s Assistant for Golden Gate University School of Law’s Introductory Legal Writing course. Held weekly office hours and offered one-on-one tutoring to first-year law students.
- 2002 Santa Barbara Unified School District
Substitute Teacher at various elementary schools in the City of Santa Barbara, CA.

SELECTED PANEL AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, “Actions to Address Marine Plastic Pollution: Reducing or Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution Through Source Controls and Life-Cycle Management,” United States House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee Briefing coordinated by Surfrider Foundation & UCLA School of Law Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic, Jan 14, 2019

Panelist, “Preemption of Local Plastic Pollution Ordinances: Overview of Bag Laws & New York Case Study,” Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (6IMDC), San Diego, CA, Mar 14, 2018

Webinar Presenter, “Plastic Bag Legislation II: Implementation & Enforcement,” National Recycling Coalition and Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center webinar, Feb 27, 2018

Presenter, “Plastic Bag Laws: NYC’s Bag Law, Moratorium, Next Steps,” Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board Meeting, Brooklyn, NY, Feb 5, 2018

Presenter, “How to Get Active in Local Politics,” Tech Solidarity Meet-Up, Brooklyn, NY, Sept 7, 2017

Webinar Presenter, “Plastic Bag Legislation: An Overview of Plastic Bag Laws,” National Recycling Coalition and Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center” webinar, July 18, 2017

Panelist, “Strategies for Combating Preemption of Local Plastic Pollution Ordinances,” Blue Vision Summit, Washington D.C., May 9, 2017

Panelist, “An Overview of Plastic Bag Laws,” Yale University School of Law, New Haven, CT, Apr 19, 2017

Presenter, “Conservation Conversations” sponsored by Senator Brad Hoylman,” New York University, New York, NY, Feb 25, 2016

Speaker, Q&A after screening of “Bag It – is your life too plastic?” by United for Action, Rutgers Church, Manhattan, NY, Oct 30, 2015

WEBSITES

- 2010-present Founded: plasticbaglaws.org, a resource for legislative bodies considering laws limiting the use of plastic bags.
- Views: 300,000+
 - Primer material prepared by Jennie Romer includes fact sheet, YouTube videos, law journal articles, and Toolkit.

Guest blog posts: Huffington Post, Surfrider Foundation, Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Selected Blog Posts

- Jan 23, 2019 “Surfrider Foundation Announces Plastic Bag Law Activist Toolkit” *Surfrider Foundation Coastal Blog*
<https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/surfrider-foundation-announces-plastic-bag-law-activist-toolkit>
- July 20, 2018 “Supreme Court of Texas strikes down Laredo’s bag ban - why we should all be alarmed” *Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation website*
<https://www.leonardodicaprio.org/supreme-court-of-texas-strikes-down-laredos-bag-ban-why-we-should-all-be-alarmed/>
- Dec 13, 2017 “Plastic bag bans draw unexpected supporters in Texas: cotton ginners and cattle rancher” *Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation website*
<https://www.leonardodicaprio.org/plastic-bag-bans-draw-unexpected-supporters-in-texas-cotton-ginners-and-cattle-rancher/>
- June 20, 2017 “How to Get Active in Local Politics: Get to Know Your Local Elected Officials” *Huff Post Blog*
<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-to-get-active-in-local-politics-get-to-know-your-us-593d9f71e4b0b65670e56ba7>
- Feb 15, 2017 “Why Carryout Bag Fees Are More Effective Than Plastic Bag Bans” *Huff Post Blog*
<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/why-carryout-bag-fees-are-better-than-plastic-bag-bans-us-588187ace4b08f5134b61f79>
- Nov 1, 2016 “Bag Props on California’s ballot: Yes on 67, No on 65” *PlasticBagLaws.org*
<https://www.plasticbaglaws.org/blog/bag-props-on-californias-ballot-yes-on-67-no-on-65?rq=270>

MEDIA ATTENTION

Interviewed and quoted by: New York Times, WNYC, Wall Street Journal, Waste Dive, New York Magazine, The New Yorker, The Observer, Albany Times Union, New York Post, The Post and Courier, The Brownsville Herald, Art Voice, The Revelator, The Outline, Trevor Noah’s On Second Thought podcast

On-camera interviews: Voice of America, New York 1: Road to City Hall, CNBC, CUNY TV

Profiled by: The New Yorker, Go Green Brooklyn

Named No. 5 on City & State Magazine’s Brooklyn Power Watch List in 2018.

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Admitted to the state bars of California and New York.

CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Certification in Resource Management, California Resource Recovery Association, 2011-2012